

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the receipt of the office action dated April 20, 2006. The drawings were objected as the scanned versions were difficult to read. The Applicants have submitted replacement drawings herewith to overcome this rejection.

Claims 1-5 and 8-12 were provisionally rejected for non-statutory double-patenting over claims 1-28 of the co-pending application having serial number 10/710,485. Applicants will file a terminal disclaimer relative to the cited application at such time that the Examiner has indicated that the claims are otherwise in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-10, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,509,868 to Flick. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Flick and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0063000 to Grimm. Claims 4 and 11 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 4 depended from claim 1 and claim 11 depended from claim 8. Claims 1 and 8 have therefore been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 4 and 11 respectively, and claims 4 and 11 have been canceled. All remaining claims depend from independent claims 1 and 8, and include further limitations thereto. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner's observations relative to patentability are appreciated and have been incorporated in the subject amendment. Accordingly, it is submitted that all remaining claims are patentably distinct over the art of record and in condition for allowance thereover.


If there are any uncovered fees, or any overpayments, necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 72793/00018.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The accompanying sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4 in accordance with the Examiner's comments regarding the line thickness of the originally submitted drawings. Replacement sheet 1 includes Figure 1 having thickened lines, thereby replacing previously filed Figure 1. Replacement sheet 2 includes Figure 2 having thickened lines, thereby replacing previously filed Figure 2. Replacement sheet 3 includes Figure 3 having thickened lines, thereby replacing previously filed Figure 3. Replacement sheet 4 includes Figure 4 having thickened lines, thereby replacing previously filed Figure 4. No new matter has been added to the Figures.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet